

INDIAN COAST GUARD PARTICIPATES IN 21ST HEADS OF ASIAN COAST GUARD AGENCIES MEETING (HACGAM) IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

New Delhi, 14 Oct 25:- A four-member ICG delegation led by **Director General Paramesh Sivamani, AVSM, PTM, TM**, is participating in the 21st Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) being held in Sydney, Australia from 13-15 Oct 2025. The meeting is being hosted by the Australian Border Force (ABF).

HACGAM is a premier regional forum consisting of 21 member countries from Asia and beyond, 01 Region (Hong Kong) and 02 Associate Members (UNODC & ReCAAP), fostering cooperation among Asian Coast Guard agencies on issues relating to maritime safety, security, environmental protection, and law enforcement. India, as the Chair of the Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) Pillar, and member of working groups on Environmental Protection, Prevention and Control of Unlawful Activities at Sea, Information Sharing, and Joint Exercises, is contributing actively to the discussions and collaborative initiatives.

The origin of HACGAM can be traced back to the successful interception of the MV *Alondra Rainbow* by the Indian Coast Guard in 1999, following a piracy incident. Recognizing the need for institutionalised regional coordination, the Japan Coast Guard convened the first HACGAM in Tokyo in 2004, paving the way for sustained multilateral engagement among Asian maritime law enforcement agencies.

Over the years, HACGAM has evolved into a key platform for enhancing coordination in search and rescue operations, combating transnational maritime crimes, addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and strengthening marine environmental protection. The forum also promotes capacity building, mutual trust, and interoperability among participating agencies.

During the meeting, the ICG delegation is sharing India's experience in maritime security operations, disaster response, and marine environment protection, while exploring avenues for joint exercises, training programmes, and enhanced operational coordination with regional partners.

ICG also conducted courtesy bilateral meeting with **Thailand Maritime Enforcement Command Centre (Thai-MECC)** on sidelines of 21st HACGAM discussing collaborative and maritime contemporary issues with the agency.

India's participation in HACGAM 2025 underscores its enduring commitment to the Indo-Pacific Maritime Vision, aimed at ensuring a safe, secure, and sustainable maritime domain in the region.

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